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The Modern Plan of Conquest. (National Economist.)

The final object of conquest has always been the furthering of pecuniary and financial interests. Sometimes the immediate cause has been apparently, of a different nature, but, followed to the primal origin, it is always found based upon financial benefit, to be derived either by additional gain direct, or the preservation of sources of revenue already existing, but threatened with interruption or destruction. The desire for the extension of power is nothing more than the greed of gain, and the securing of the ability to levy tribute and increase revenue.

Conquest on the part of nations is the equivalent of financial operations on the part of the individual; merely a means of increasing revenues and incomes, by means of which all desires and aspirations may be gratified. The conquest of the nations of antiquity were nothing more nor less than the levying of tribute by force of arms upon the nations they overthrew. There was no philanthropy in their acts. They were not inspired by any desire to elevate the race, to improve the condition of their fellow-men. Their object was merely to compel a regular flow of money into the national treasury, to be used in the various ways to which all public revenues are appropriated, to enhance the splendor and riches of the nation, as well as contribute to the gratification and elevation of aspiring men, whose ambition aimed at great national wealth and splendor as well as personal aggrandizement.

Rome made none of her great conquests from a spirit of philanthropy or any desire for the higher development of the race, but from purely selfish and mercenary motives; and so it has gone on from age to age, the incentive always the same.

First, the desire grew in the hearts of autocratic rulers, whose personal will could call into action all the powers of nations and apply them in any direction. This inclination naturally turned in the way of rapine and compelled submission by force of all within its reach. This example, having been early set, was subsequently followed by all forms of government succeeding the original autocracy, and the results were appropriated by the nation in the same manner.

The Roman conquerors did not say to their unfortunate victims, "reform your religion, change your form of government and your social organization, improve your status morally, intellectually, and socially, and we will be satisfied, having thus raised you from degradation to enlightenment." No, they merely said, "now we do not desire to interfere with your religion, moral or social ideas, or political tenets; all we want is revenue, tribute to add to our riches. Live

just such lives as may be most agreeable to you, be just as ignorant, savage, brutal, immoral as you please. Rome will not interfere; all we require is that you pay us tribute, and to secure that we will station garrisons among you, officers to collect the tribute we demand, and you must pay their expenses in addition to the tax, which we will enjoy in Rome after our own fancy."

Later on, when nations became commercial and ideas of *meum* and *tuum* more clearly defined, private enterprises of subjects of various powers developed into vast pecuniary interests which were of immense importance to the various nations to which their originators were subject. To protect these commercial interests, or rather to maintain them in the manner in which they existed, nations became involved in war, which often resulted in the entire subjugation of one by another.

England's conquest of India grew out of the commercial operations of the east India company, and history gives other instances which the reader will readily recall, the result of all being merely the money revenue secured by the victor, no other reason or result being apparent.

Now, if the same result can be brought about by any other means than armed force, is it not practically as much invasion and conquest as though the victor won amid clash of arms and roar of cannon upon the field of battle? Is the victory any less complete because unstained by blood or unheralded by the pomp and circumstance of war.

If this be true then Americans to-day are living witnesses to one of the most gigantic invasions and grandest conquests the history of the world records. To-day the invasion of America is an accomplished fact, and the conquest has proceeded far on the road to complete success.

The enemy has landed silently upon our shores, not only unopposed but received with hearty welcome. They came, not in panoply of steel and the pomp and circumstance of glorious war, with waving banner and trumpets' blare, but in the peaceful guise of commerce, as the friends of progress, the votaries of peace. Surreptitious legislation has proved the Trojan horse which has introduced the conquering cohorts within our walls, and, like fated Priam, we are undone. Stealthily, secretly, but surely the work is being done. The money of the foreign invader is accomplishing its work of destruction as certainly and surely as the sword of the invading Greeks did its fatal work upon the doomed people of Troy.

The very temple of our liberties is invaded and the halls of legislation profaned, our trusted leaders contaminated, and the people betrayed. Their inheritance is bartered away, their

hereditary rights are sold for a price. Their lands are passing into the hands of alien masters, and the time is rapidly approaching when the treacherous guest will throw off all disguise and stand before his betrayed entertainers in his true habit—a victorious invader—and the dupes who welcomed him his vassals and serfs.

This invasion and conquest of America is no idle dream, but a stern and startling reality. Our newly-constructed navy can lend us no aid through its walls of steel and ponderous engines of destruction. Our coast defences are powerless, and their monster guns may still remain a nesting place where birds may build in peace. The enemy has already passed these barriers, and has firm footing upon our soil. The fatal breach was in our laws, and through this he entered.

It needed not the thunder of alien cannon to effect this breach. The wiles of the traitor were more potent, more secret, more sure. The breach was made while the people slept the sleep of confidence, of trust and of imaginary security.

Traitors in the halls of Congress stealthily gave admittance to alien and capitalistic gold, and the invader entered in the quiet hours of the night of peace and apparent tranquility. He fixed his hold in the lands of the people, and through these will demand the tribute his arms never could have compelled.

The lands of the nation are to be used for the subjugation of the people and the levying upon them of onerous taxes and tribute to foreign lands, while the government of the people will be the power used to enforce a collection of these demands.

The granting by Congress to aliens of the right to own lands in this country was the blackest treason to the nation, and the men who took part in and favored it deserve the punishment due to traitors. It originated in mercenary greed, was nurtured in fraud and corruption, and accomplished by the basest treachery to the nation and the people, and the day will come when the name of Benedict Arnold, the traitor, will be honorable beside those of the men who betrayed American liberty through the trust the people placed in them into the power of alien lords for gold. They will be as they should, infamous before the deceived and betrayed people whose interests they were entrusted to guard.

This alien ownership of land amounts to no more nor less than an invasion and conquest, and to-day more American land pays tribute to English lords than is contained in the whole of Ireland and Scotland combined, and England thrown into the bargain. England could never hope to make a conquest of this great nation by force of arms, but she has resorted to a surer, a more silent, a more

deadly plan. Capital is the engine to be used to accomplish her conquest, and interest, profits and rents are the shackles with which Americans are to be bound. Our Government will be the power used to enforce the collection and American tribute will, indeed does now, flow as regularly into the English aristocracy as does the tribute from Ireland or India.

The English plan of operation has always been the same. The land is the object of their attack; having seized this, and holding it under their system of tenure, it is an easy matter to demand tribute in the shape of rent; and so the aristocratic plunderers sit in their castle halls amid every luxury and elegance, and revel in the wealth that pours in upon them in the shape of rent for lands of which they are "the owners." In this way every clime pays its tribute to the "great land proprietors of the world." The foreigner is wise enough to know that when once he gets a man to acknowledge his ownership of the land and right to demand pay for its use, that man is his slave. He takes no trouble to secure any stronger hold.

Knowing the value of their land system for the accomplishment of their ends, the alien aristocrat gathers to himself a sufficiency of land to yield him a satisfactory revenue and then sits down to enjoy life in ease and plenty. The English land system is the most perfect conception for the accomplishment of the English idea of class dominion that could have been devised, and the English aristocrat is a land-grabber by instinct.

The Irish people have borne the yoke until they can bear it no more. The people of England and Scotland have tired of the oppression of these harpies, and land reform is the cry of the hour. There is no longer any honor or profit in being a landlord in Ireland. The Land Restoration Leagues of England and Scotland have reached such proportions that the harpies see the end of their oppression plainly written. The industrial classes throughout Europe, who for ages have been robbed by this barbarous relic of the dark ages, are awakening to the imposition which has so long made them slaves and mere creatures of the will of others.

The birds of prey, the human wolves who prey upon their fellows recognize the conditions surrounding them and are seeking out other lands upon which to fix their talons. The broad fields of America offered the greatest temptation. The people had for generations been free. They were ignorant, to a great extent, of the evils and oppression that had so long afflicted the people of Europe. By the exercise of a little shrewdness these lands could be seized upon in vast holdings, and enormous tribute levied while the people were ignorant of the

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